



**Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane M. Douglas**

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Contact: Sally Stewart
Sally.Stewart@azed.gov
[602 542 5072](tel:6025425072)

Superintendent Diane Douglas Applauds Governor for Funding Proposal

(Phoenix, Ariz., June 5, 2015) - Today the Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas applauded Governor Doug Ducey for his Enhanced Funding Education Proposal.

"I remember traveling with now Governor Ducey during the campaign to get our message out to the voters. At that time we both discussed more money for education funding from the state land trust, a project he had worked on previously and one we both support," Superintendent Douglas said. "I am proud of the Governor for following through on our campaign promises and on his innovative proposal."

This proposal will provide around \$2 billion in funding to education over several years. Unfortunately, it will require legislative action and a vote of the people, so it might take one or two years to take effect, even if passage goes smoothly, Superintendent Douglas said.

"The best part is that the Governor's plan provides a much needed large increase in funding to schools while also adhering to our joint philosophy that raising taxes on parents will not help schools," Superintendent Douglas stated. "I will first look to ensure that the additional money is sustainable so that districts can depend on the funding over time without diminishing the principle (known as corpus) of the trust fund. Secondly, I'll look at what method will be used to distribute the money. Is it an addition to the basic state aid, targeted to needy children, or be distributed by other criteria?"

Superintendent Douglas was unable to attend yesterday's press conference due to a prior commitment in Globe, Ariz. for a leg of her "We Are Listening" state-wide tour.

"I was honored to be invited by the Governor, and we were able to meet last week and discuss several issues," the Superintendent stated. "Out of respect for both my hosts and the public attending, I was concerned that I arrive on time in Globe to receive their input."

Superintendent Douglas looks forward to working with the Governor on this proposal and other projects to improve education funding and outcomes for children in Arizona.

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